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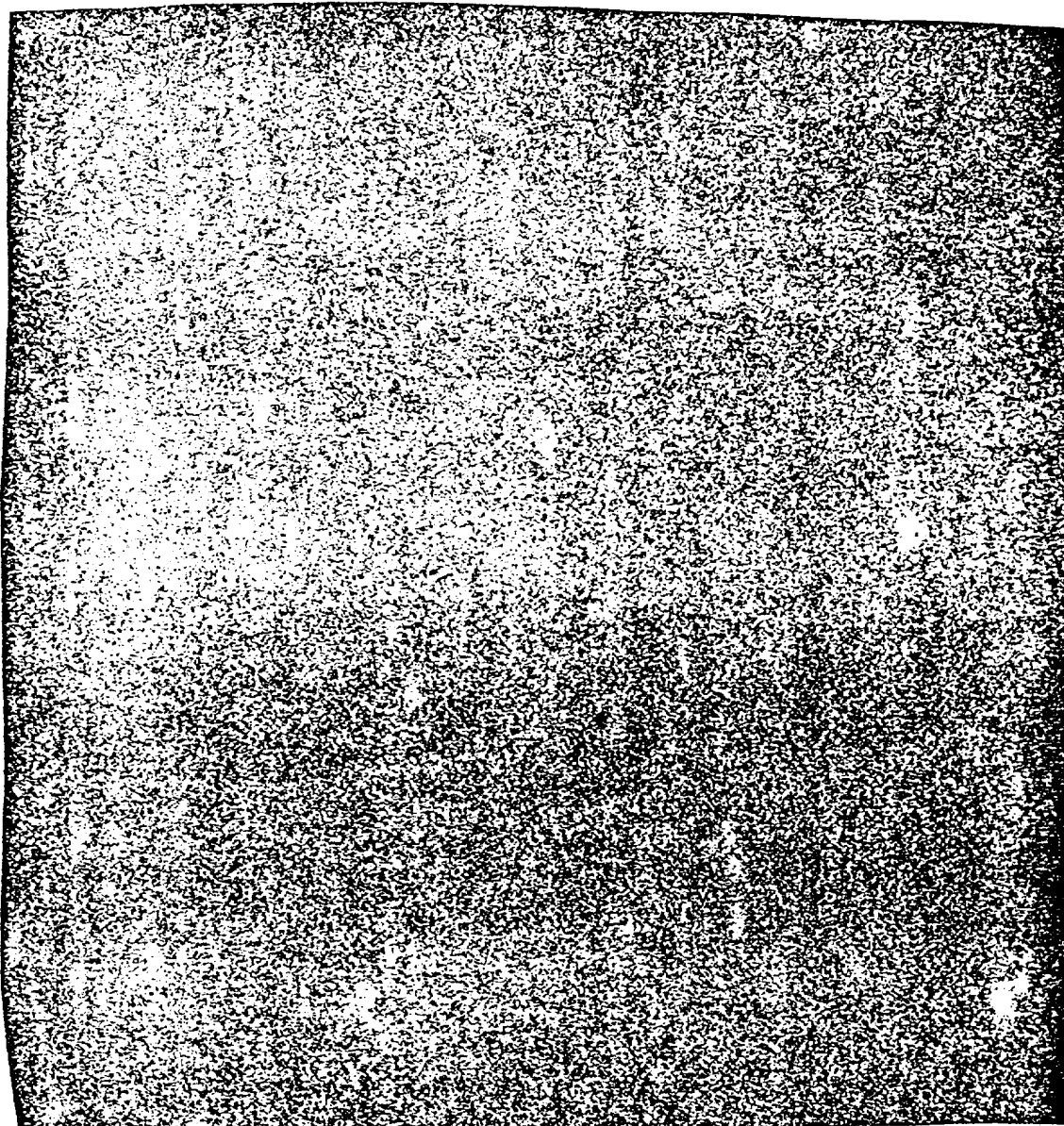
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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SPOT COMMENTARY

2 March 1991
0600 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #620



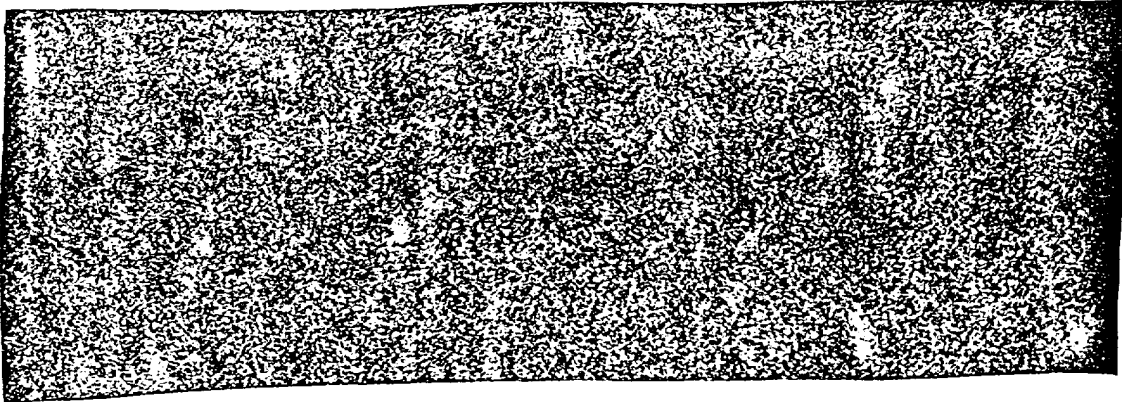
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Political Developments

CBS Newsmen Released

The four-man CBS news team that had been in Iraqi custody since January was released today from the Soviet Embassy in Baghdad, according to a Soviet spokesman. [REDACTED]

Palestinian Reaction to Saddam's Defeat

the war cost them dearly in terms of financial losses and diminished credibility and are relieved it is over. Nonetheless they appear unprepared to blame publicly the PLO leadership for these setbacks. One pro-Arafat publisher even refused to accept Western accounts of Saddam's military debacle. He said Palestinians had heard that over 90 percent of Saddam's army withdrew from Kuwait before the coalition ground attack began, and that the US ceasefire was called because of stiff Iraqi opposition encountered inside Iraq. Arafat's staunch supporters warn that unless the US moves quickly to launch a credible peace process that includes the PLO, more radicalism and Islamic fundamentalism are likely throughout the region.

UN Representative Says Thousands Missing

Only 8,000 Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq have been registered with the International Red Cross out of a total of 32,000 reported missing since the 2 August invasion, according to the Kuwaiti Permanent Representative to the UN. Kuwait is demanding that Baghdad furnish complete information about the missing Kuwaitis before signing any permanent agreement on a ceasefire. The UN Representative also indicated that it would be necessary to station international forces in Kuwait for some time.

Pages: 3 + 4

Exemptions: (b)(1) (b)(2)